## SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHS THAT WERE FRAUDS An Actress Discusses Methods

Nevil Maskelyne, Famous Magician, Cites Cases Where London Mediums Were Exposed and How They Worked - Says Conjurers Can Outdo Them With Camera and in Seance—Conan Doyle Deceived

By NEVIL MASKELYNE,
The World Famous Magician.

A RDENT believers in spiritualism cannot understand why so many persons frankly deny spiritualistic phenomena. The believers point to famous men like Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and ask if persons with such highly trained and analytical minds are likely to be deceived by mediums.

Spiritualists say that whereas the ordinary person was a manufactured of the state of the state in full daylight. They can, if desired, be locked in a safe, and when the safe is opened they will be found. They can, if desired, be locked in a safe, and when the safe is opened they will be found bolding a gold watch or something similar. They will go further and repeat the tests before scientists, under their very eyes.

In their case the stomach with the syldence of Mr. Price concernation the experiment is fully set forth in his pamphlet, "Cold Light on Spiritualistic Phenomena." He placed two plates in the dark silde in the dark silde in the dark silde in the dark silde to his left breast pocket. Afterward the medium handed Mr. Price a silde, and they went to take the photographs.

Mr. Frice, however, had taken the precaution of marking the slide he had loaded, and when the side he had loaded, and when the safe is opened they will be found. They can, if the experiment is fully set forth in his pamphlet, "Cold Light on Spiritualistic Phenomena." He placed two plates in the dark silde in the dark silde

derful discoveries would not easily be taken in—neither would they if they approached spiritualism with the same open mind with which they approach their scientific problems and make their scientific discoveries.

The scientist is supposed to take nothing for granted. He tests everything. But the scientist who embraces spiritualism owing to the death of some loved one is biased. That part of his brain which subjects everything to keen analysis ceases to operate so far as spiritualism is concerned.

The fact that a scientist may be de-ceived in business is surely proof that he may be deceived over spiritualistic phenomena. I have deceived many scientists with my tricks, so I know they are as gullible as ordinary folk. The place occupied by Sir Arthur in spiritualistic circles is a very high

one, and his opinion exercises a big influence among spiritualists and others. He is a man of the highest integrity, and since the loss of his son he has been a firm believer in

Some considerable time ago he attended a seance given by a medium who wore a mask. The medium gave an astonishing exhibition of her powers, and told the persons present so much concerning themselves that the spiritualists present were very much impressed. She described all manner of things, told them what they had put into a box which apparently lay unopened on the table in dim light before them, described what they had left in their overcoat pockets outside in the hall, and in the end she caused a spirit to materialize.

Sir Arthur referred to it as a re-

sir Arthur referred to it as a remarkable exhibition, and but for unforeseen circumstances the seance, which was given under test conditions, might have been looked upon as providing further proof that the spirits of the dead may communicate with earth bound people through a pulsable medium. suitable medium.

had a contract to give exhibitions of her wonderful powers in a theater, and this contract fell through. The result was that an action was brought for breach of contract, and during the trial it was admitted that the whole thing was trickery from beginning to end, and that Sir Arthur and the others were mistaken in thinking that the information which so astounded

them was furnished by spirits.

The strange thing is that spiritualists are unaffected by this exposure.

They dismiss it as being of no ac-

## Scientists' Search for

substance which the spiritualists refer to as ectoplasm. He asserts in perfect good faith that he has seen it done and that he has held some ectoplasm

A French medium known as Mile. Eva has achieved fame in spiritualistic circles for being able to produce this ectoplasm. During his tour Sir Arthur attended some seances given certain in his own mind that she ac-

tion in Paris that eventually it was tested by four French scientists. The test comprised fifteen seances, and the scientists conducted them as carefully

the laboratories in the famous Sorthoroughly searched before entering ture and thus elinched its authenticgive the medium the most favorable did not help the scientists in their in-

The medium failed to materialize the The medium failed to materialize the much discussed ectoplasm. She had affteen opportunities of producing this proof that he had relinquished them. convince the scientists that she pro-

The scientists saw her make those light. muscular contractions of the stomach such as a person makes who is will- who is fully awake and doing his best sions she produced something in her deceive those people who go to mouth. The first time she seemed to medium full of trust in order to be masticating very quickly and some-thing emerged for about two inches of fact, it is the easiest thing in the between her ling. The scientist switched world to practice deception upon erly, but instantly the medium turned substance something like India rubber emerged from her mouth for half an inch, and quickly disappeared again.

So Fairies Appeared proved that the packet was so opened, the top plate removed and a prepared plate substituted.

To make assurance doubly sure the

them to prepare a special packet of plates for the experiments, plates marked in such a way that it was impossible to substitute others for them without discovery. The makers eventually exposed the plates to X-rays so that four plates was seen to go to her bag, drop one day phenomena—the voices issuing from a telephone and the beautiful other slide with the hymn book.

Three of the plates upon development showed the thumb print and no that four plates were displaced in tually exposed the plates to X-rays so that four plates when developed in the ordinary way would show one-fourth of their trade mark, a lion rampant, and when these plates were put in their proper order the whole design would appear. Four more plates were treated in the same way and six of these prepared plates were made up for the test.

The evidence of Mr. Price concerning the experiment is fully set forth

highly trained and analytical minds are likely to be deceived by mediums. Spiritualists say that whereas the ordinary person may be deceived by clover mediums, the trickery would quickly be unmasked by men of science.

It sounds reasonable to assert that men of science who have made won-levely deceived who have made won-levely deceived who have made won-levely deceived with the tests before scientists, under their very eyes.

In their case the stomach will be seen to undergo the same contractions, and in the end they will take the watch or in the end they will take the watch or in the end they will take the watch or in the end they will take the watch or in the mouth. You could not possibly find anything on these graph on one, but the X-ray design was missing!

Three of the plates upon develop-ment showed the thumb print and no spirit photograph, the fourth showed a spirit photograph, but no thumb print!

thenticity of so-called spirit photo- ducing the spirits to dip their hands graphs and prove trickery on the part and feet in molten wax, to obtain wax

to submit to my tests and produce wax impressions behind.
genuine spirit photographs. Spiritualists are always asserting

they will have. They must produce medium has ever produced at any phenomena to please their patrons, seance.

and if they cannot produce the effects Any member of the audience is at

melodies that come from the disc of the phonograph.

At the present time spiritualistic circles are much excited over the phe-nomena produced by a Polish medium, Franck Kluski, who is said to material-ize spirit hands and feet, and, by inof mediums.

As a result I challenge any medium bers are said to dematerialize and leave

In considering spiritualistic phenomena, it is necessary to bear in a medium does he would be abnormally mind some of the known facts. First clever. Personally I am not only able and foremost is the fact that seances to do as much as any known medium take place in the dark—and the abdoes, but I can also do considerably

serve for the success of trickery.

My son's latest mystery in connect sary for the success of trickery. My son's latest mystery in connec-There may be honest mediums, no tion with spirit photography should doubt, who are seekers after truth, open the eyes of those who believe in But the majority of mediums get an spirit photographs and in the wax imeasy living out of spiritualism, and the pressions that spirits are said to leave more remarkable the phenomena they behind. At present he is producing his name is a byword for theatrical can produce the bigger the following phenomena more wonderful than any excellence, even among those who

W. Marriott, psychic expert,

who proved to Conan Doyle

and an editor that he could ob-

tain spirit photographs by

the plates may keep his eyes on them

all the time. He may load them into

the slides and develop them in the

With the ordinary medium the sitter

has to fix an appointment some time ahead if he wishes to obtain spirit pho-

tographs. The interval will allow a medium time to prepare the "extra."

The mediums also say that they prefer

o keep the plates by them for a day or

We allow any members of the audi-

encesto write on cards any names of

the fliustrious dead, any one who is known to fame-poets, statesmen,

authors, generals-it does not matter:

tograph of himself. The audience can

themselves recognize the photograph of the departed "spirit" and the wax

mask the "spirit" has left behind.

I do not claim, however, that the photographs or masks have any su-

are due to clever trickery, but how we

call up the spirits, take their photo-graphs and induce them to make wax

nasks of themselves I leave spirit-

# of David Belasco and Basil Dean

## The Best That Though even then, one cannot quite about the though even then, one cannot quite America and Eng- as to the mere man's rightness assail own instinct is to be followed. Doubts land Has in Way of Producers Are Opposite Types

By DIANA BOURBON. (The author of this article is a young American actress trained in

the English school.) AVID BELASCO has so long rector's" work in the playhouse. Lately honestly they will do so dishonestly. Herty to bring his own plates to the field of work—Basil Dean, the best, The majority of mediums are conjurers, some are clumsy, some are honor that these plates are not tamvery skilled. Some submit to tests by pered with in any way. The owner of lated appearances in Broadway's the-

It would be difficult to imagine two masters of the same craft more utterly different in personality, methods, ideas—results even—than these two. That very difference covers the whole can lead to a successful and worth

Yet of the real work of these two, and of all "directors," the public proper is entirely ignorant. In the days when managers believed in "illustrated by the days when managers believed in "illustrated by the days with his beautiful white hair, watchdays when managers believed in "illu-sion" and the "naive public" this was considered desirable. But now that the great artistic contribution to a play comes usually from the director think that even at the risk of show ing a no longer naive public a few more of the wheels inside their "illu-sion" going round, a little more enlightenment on the subject might be vouchsafed them in the name of appreciation of any development in an

Belasco Makes the Actors. Dean All for Production

Now, Mr. Belasco-for we proceed at once to take concrete examplesmakes actors, subjecting his production to them, utilizing their own per-sonalities and providing the background of movement and timing which will best set off each individuality. Mr. Dean, on the other hand, subjects everything to the importance of his production, thus obtaining little short of perfection for the play, but hardly doing his actors the something more than justice done them by Mr. Belas-co's method. The latter, in thinking out his scheme of things, molds it entirely to the individual, concealing faults and emphasizing assets. Mr. Dean mercilessly immolates the individual to the perfection of his prearranged scheme of things.

And now to abolish the popular myth that "the production" means the scene settings, and nothing more. For, to describe the methods of these two interesting people (who are far nolsy and descriptive about them selves than many quacks and fad-dists who do infinitely less, practically, for the theater), it is necessary and

Interpreting, explaining—the author else (as is the director's task), the actors; the actors to the author; the probable views of critics and audiences to both; what he wants to everybody, including the scene designer (unless he is designing men. He not only puts no softnesses, Now a dress rehearsal by itself is designer (unless he is designing everything himself), and the electrician, for he plans the lighting. And, above all, he directs; he explains their work to the actors, he even does their work to the actors, he even does the mentalist, but his sincerity is rather a poor performance), with instance to the mentalist, but his sincerity is rather a poor performance), with instance to the mentalist is proposed to anybody. It is just an ordinary performance without the cooperating audience (in other words, rather a poor performance), with instance to the mentalist is proposed to the mentalist is a rabid antimerely good producer-he can do their work for them. Plenty of directors can explain at great length what it is exactly that they want the actor to "convey," but they can't (like these two) get up on to the stage and do it themselves. To have seen Belasco, for instance, dazedly dragging across the stage till he almost trips over the re-volver lying on the floor (illustrating the last act of "The Easiest Way" to Frances Starr), or playing a love scene in "Kiki" for Lanora Ulric: to have seen Basil Dean playing with apparently unconscious humor and complete entirely different character part to an-other (and being both) in a play like

"Loyalties" is a revelation.
The director decides everything. down to the movements of the charac sit and when and how-even the inflections of the voice are often "given" by him. For the one thing that no actor can ever do is to see and hear himself as he is seen and heard from the auditorium. That the director does. Once an audience is there the actor can tell whether he is doing well discovers it beforehand, and has to set right what is wrong. He, too, regu-

as to the mere man's righness assail one's artistic consciousness—and, be it said, even with the greatest, they are said, even with the greatest, they are sometimes justified! That is one of the actor's many but sorest trials! Is it harder for the actor to have com-plete confidence in his director—or for

the director to command the confi-dence of his actor? I don't know.

couraging, gentle way of directing no gant), themselves and everybody else less by his desire to get the best of —as it is only right they should! No place their inclinations with his per- self. them), turns equally naturally to the more brutal methods—interspersing the subject of lighting in the theater

well under control, is by no means so awe-inspiring when the loss of temper is complete.

Acts and Writes

sympathy over one's diffi-

Now, Mr. Dean, an image of disconsolate disgust and desperation-wan-dering restlessly all over the theater,

To him the Great Game is a delicious agony—a torture but of great sweetness. To Mr. Belasco it is pure joy, and what it is to themselves they each

terminable waits between the acts to waste one's time and tire one out Any corrections or instructions (from

curtain, in secret. managers-and especially (for it is the actors who are most likely to object), to issue to these students the privilege of attending at least the last week of rehearsals (all of them). Of course, it should be asdents—those who sincerely intend to follow "the profession"—are chosen. The privilege might be made a reward good work in the academies. the managers and actors would be ure that only those who would really profit by what could undoubtedly be harned under these circumstances, and not those who would be "out for unusement," would be availing them-

elves of the privilege.
The reason that most dramatic schools are such woefully inadequate raining for a profession which, after Il. demands as much technical knowlfige as most others—is that they are often staffed by either out of date actors-or those who are not good enough at their job to obtain first class engagements themselves (otherwise they would not, as a rule, take up

'instructing" or mis-instructing).

Consequently the only real and ser-teeable training is in watching real actors who know their job-at work under real directors, who know theirs -and absorbing the actions of the one and the directions of the others. This attendance at rehearsals of

Belasco Smiling and Optimistic While Dean Is the Image of Despair **During Trials** 

theatergoing America that of him—than by his natural, human to give himself or to demand from the is a byword for theatrical ince is a byword for theatrical that of him—than by his natural, human to give himself or to demand from the control of the theatrical that of him—than by his natural, human to give himself or to demand from the control of the theatrical that of him—than by his natural, human to give himself or to demand from the control of the c his name is a byword for theatrical excellence, even among those who least understand the extent of the "displayers—and to reduce the content of the "displayers—and to reduce the content of the "displayers" work in the cited to the content of the "displayers" work in the cited to the content of the content of the content of the content of the cited to the place their inclinations with his perfect artistic conceptions (which, unfortunately, are often uncongenial to according to the manufacturally to the second to the manufactural to the ma

ing attentively, with a benign expression on his face, a smile for every one He is usually optimistic about his productions (or pretends to be, by way of encouragement), and is justified by the

throwing up his hands as though in im precation-or sitting "accable" (there is no other word for it), scowling at the world with his hat on the rack of his head and a cigar in one corner of his mouth. The complete pessimist: This mood gives way to one of feverish excitement on the first night-and leaves him the most surprised and delighted of mortals when another astounding success is assured.

make it for every one else. Mr. Be-lasco believes in the efficacy of praise, and, mostly, even does his fault finding pleasantly. Mr. Dean mistrusts the natural egoism of the actor, and will never praise any one wholly until the last day of rehearsal, when he goes around with a face like a prospective suicide and fondly imagines he is "cheering every one up" with his eleventh hour "encouragements."

But any actor or actress should be glad of the privilege of a few years' work under such directors—no matter whether playing star roles or kitchen

To watch either of them at work is

perfect reproduction from some one deal in the papers about a movement among certain managers to help in ob-Mr. Dean is hampered by a certain taining properly trained young actors hardness in his own nature which pre- -by giving the dramatic schools the

which one might learn) are given be-tween the acts, behind the lowered

All of which brings us back to the entirely different methods of Mr. Belasco and Mr. Dean in conducting their rehearsals.

Mr. Belasco is bound to his entirely many themselves and entirely extravations of the second control of the second cont

his directions freely with sarcasm and and great experimenters and theatrical humorous imitations—often painful mechanicians. No detail of any producand humiliating to the object of them. On the other hand, Mr. Belasco, tention of either, and both are adored when he does lose his temper, is a by an army of stage hands and their terrible force indeed (well may all his entire office staff. (I put the stage underlings cower abjectly at such hands first, they being so much the times), while Mr. Dean, being, in a continual state of semi-enragement, American theater!)

## And an Image of Disgust



Diana Bourbon.

pose it is the lovableness of his own nature which help him to understand an education in theaterdom-whether desirable that the uninitiated should women so thoroughly-and perfect un- for the technique of acting or produc derstanding is necessary to perfect re- tion. production-still more to obtaining

### A Great Producer



A sealed packet of plates had been forwarded to the medium, and these were exposed one by one and developed. An extra, or supposed spirit photograph, appeared on the first the packet of plates would be opened in a certain way, and the tests proved that the packet way, and the tests proved that the packet was no opened, the top plate removed and a prepared

## plasm makes me smile. Spiritualists may look upon the medium's powers as supernatural, but I cannot.

Sir Arthur caused a good deal of comment by publishing some time ago an article about fairy photographs illustrated by reproductions of photographs that were alleged to be those of real fairies. There is no question that Sir Arthur honestly thought the photographs to be those of genuine

dium to meet his tests.

tographed these fairles cannot be told from real fairles, as human beings conceive them to be, although they are faked and made by human

The direct outcome of the celebrated by a conjurer with an editor. The photographs were to be taken under the usual test conditions. The magiclan undertook the test in order to prove that it was possible for a compe-

tent conjuror to deceive the most watchful spiritualist. Sir Arthur was present, and the edi-The remarkable powers claimed for this medium attracted so much attention in Paris that are remarkable to render the trickery futile. He signed the plates and endeavored tion in Paris that eventually it was never to let them out of his hands. arranged that her powers should be While he was in the dark room he was dictating to a shorthand writer outside exactly what he was doing all the time. He dictated his every movement just as it occurred. Four plates were exposed, and, in spite of the watchfulness of the editor, when the plates were developed two were the editor asserted that the plates had

never lefe his possession or been touched by Mr. Marriot. When he consulted the notes made by the shorthand writer, however, he The report of the scientists throws a light over these sittings in the dark. let the plates go from his hands. The substance, and she falled to the scientists that she pro-t once.

proof that he had reinquisited the plate that appeared on the plate were taken from a well known poster of fairles dancing round a night

occa- to prevent trickery, it must be easy to

Nevil Maskelyne, author of this article. who defies any meweek. But if you took X-ray photographs of them you would find the articles in question in their stomachs.

TWO SKEPTICS AND A CONJURER'S SPIRIT PHOTO

This shows a magician's "spirit photograph" made by Capt. two in order to magnetize them. Clive Maskelyne, son of Nevil Maskelyne, and also a magician. It was done on a London stage. The spirit subject is Sir Walter Scott.

een impressed. If such was the case

gate spirit photographs, and costs were yet become visible when the slates arranged with various mediums who are dry.

are famous for getting "extras" or A common spirit message trick is to are famous for getting "extras" or spirit phtographs on their plates. Some of the members of the committee believed in spirit photographs, some were professional men with open one at a time and then handed back

of all the tricks of a medium, and a unopened packets of plates. Twelve found on one. So spirit writing gains of the tests were violated. It was adherents! proved that the sealed packet had

Fingerprints Are Used to

considered above suspicion by no less a person than the principal of the British College of Psychic Science, was with one another that if a well known

medium was put to a further test. In sceptics have more than once revealed Is it not strange that a medium who is said to have produced ectoplasm on psychical Research, tried to obtain a stiting with this medium, but without to produce any in these tests? The report proves that anything seen during them performs the success. Early this year, however, a stiting was arranged at a fee of two stores of each place. In the state of the speakers in the very act of taking handing her these plates to put into the speakers in the very act of taking handing her these plates to put into the speakers in the very act of taking the sides a little pink paste was deftly placed upon the ball of his thumb by success. Early this year, however, a stiting was arranged at a fee of two contents of the third the speakers in the very act of taking the speakers in the very act of taking

The Journal of the Society for being roped to their chairs, yet gut. the audience has all history to choose the information which so astounded them was furnished by spirits.

The strange thing is that spiritualists are unaffected by this exposure. They dismiss it as being of no account.

Scientists' Search for

Ectoplasm Proves Futile

Sir Arthur also firmly believes that some mediums can materialize from feathers and various their own bedies a certain strange thing is the strange thing is that spiritualists are unaffected by this exposure. The queer thing about these fairies was that they were exactly like those fairies we see pictured in books by various artists.

The Journal of the Society for being roped to their chairs, yet guitter of the audience has all history to choose of critics from. A member of the science one of these cards, and audiences to both; what he wants appear, and the medium is found appear, and the medium is an photograph of the departed spirit books by various artists.

I happen to know of one or two persons exceedingly clever at making spirits.

I happen to know of one or two persons exceedingly clever at making spirits from feathers and various was abundantly confirmed both when the slide was examined and when the slide was plates were developed. Presumably that substitution was effected by the medium in order to obtain a plate upon which an 'extra' had already

minds on the matter, others were pro-fessional conjurers with a knowledge four slates. The sitter certainly few more besides.

A male medium, whose name was The medium deftly shifts the position furnished by Sir Arthur, was given a of the prepared state and when the packet of plates with fourteen secret sitter thinks all are cleaned the slates tests. This medium was supposed to are thrown on the carpet. After a get wonderful spirit photographs on time they are lifted and a message is

been opened, although the medium asserted that it had not been touched. It was a severe setback to those who believed in spirit phtographs.

Mediums help each other to an aspect hat the series of all grains and flour in nine months of 1922 (14,503,960 pounds), the series of the homes of spiritualists. When visiting the homes of spiritualists the measurement of the series of the ing the homes of spiritualists the me-diums take secret copies of photo- But imports of meat and meat prod-

due solely to trickery, and within the To make assurance doubly sure the last few months flash lamps carried by port proves that anything seen durport proves that is able to speak lists as wonder in the dark it will also be alice to speak lists as encounted to make the first anything arranged at a fee of two speaking anything seen durprove the dark it will also be alice to speak lists as encounted to make the first anything seen durprove the dark it will also be alice to speak lists as encounted to make the first anything seen durprove the dark it will also be alice to speak lists as encounted t

Of Mediums Ernoved (and we cannot conceive of any other reason for substitution) it implies that the medium brings to the sit-Slate writing and pictures drawn on that the medium brings to the sit-ling a duplicate slide and faked plates amined by the persons taking part in a seance. Messages are written in Some time ago a committee of the Magic Circle was formed to investi-slate is cleaned off with a wet sponge.

Back to Normal Eating.

REAT BRITAIN has got back almost to its pre-war normal consumption of foodstuffs, Department of Commerce in its quar-terly analysis of British foodstuff con-

months ended September 20, 1922, were 127.19 per cent. of the average of 1910 to 1914. Imports and consumpever, have decreased materially from Fingerprints Are Used to

Detect Photo Substitutes

A lady medium, whose integrity was enjected above suspicion by no less on sidered above suspicion by no less of person than the principal of the product imports in giving them their true value. So that when the finished product is rewealed it is most often by his work that it stands or falls. Even the critical person than the principal of the different person than the principal of the different person than the principal of the product imports in giving them their true value. So that when the finished product is rewealed it is most often by his work that it stands or falls. Even the critical person than the principal of the product imports in giving them their tr a person than the principal of the British College of Psychic Science, was put to the test of the committee of the Magic Circle. As is usual with seances, the sitting opened with cersus and prayers were said to obtain the necessary atmosphere for obtain- ing spirit photographs.

A scaled packet of plates had been with one process of a support of the principal of the numers of the process of the set in that it stands or falls. Even the critics streat and overwhelming in everything that it stands or falls. Even the critics streat and overwhelming in everything he does. These three chiefs are obtain- tion praise or blame often quite wrongly to the individual actor when it is an opportunity for praise or blame of the great increase in inferior play and actors who have no of the set intouch is that it stands or falls. Even the critics streat and overwhelming in everything that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is that it stands or falls. Even the critics is the intensity of the does. These three the does. These three the does. These three the does. These three this is the does. It is an opportunity for it is an opportunity for control in plays. It is that it stands or